

Resolution Opposing Gerrymandering and Calling for an Independent Redistricting Process in North Carolina

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are the foundation of a functioning democracy, and voters should choose their representatives — not the other way around; and

WHEREAS, partisan gerrymandering in North Carolina has repeatedly resulted in the intentional manipulation of district lines to predetermine electoral outcomes rather than reflect the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, current and past redistricting maps have divided cohesive communities — including neighborhoods that share schools, churches, grocery stores, civic organizations, and economic interests — fracturing local representation and weakening community voices; and

WHEREAS, the splitting of communities of interest undermines effective representation by placing neighbors with shared concerns into separate districts, often represented by officials unfamiliar with or unaccountable to their specific needs; and

WHEREAS, gerrymandering has historically diluted the voting strength of minority populations by cracking or packing communities of color, thereby diminishing their collective influence and reducing equitable representation in legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, courts have repeatedly intervened in North Carolina redistricting disputes, finding certain maps unconstitutional or unlawful, including rulings addressing racial gerrymandering and extreme partisan bias; and

WHEREAS, the repeated cycle of litigation, court intervention, and map redrawing has eroded public trust and created instability in our electoral system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we strongly oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering in all forms and affirm that district lines must respect communities of interest and preserve the voting strength of minority populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the North Carolina General Assembly to establish an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission composed of qualified citizens who reflect the geographic, racial, and political diversity of our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a commission should operate transparently, prohibit the use of partisan data in map drawing, require public input, and prioritize keeping counties, municipalities, and shared community institutions intact; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we urge state leaders to enact durable, structural reforms that protect the principle of one person, one vote, and restore confidence that North Carolina's elections reflect the true will of its people.

Adopted this

21 Day of March 2026

Burke County Democratic Party Convention

Pamela Genant, Chairman